



- As we prepare for another fall deer hunting season, here are some safety tips to review with your recently graduated hunter safety children and grandchildren. Even adults should review the four basic rules of gun deer hunting. **TAB-K**
 - **T** = Treat every firearm as if it is loaded. Never assume a firearm is unloaded and never treat it that way, even if you watch as it is unloaded. Make it a habit to treat guns like they are loaded all the time.
 - **A** = Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
 - **B** = Be certain of your target and what's beyond it.
 - **K** = Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- Planning your fall hunting trip also means having your gear in proper working order.
 - Firearms should be cleaned and closely inspected for any signs of mechanical wear that could result in a problem in the field.
 - Clothing and other equipment should also be inspected for signs of wear and tear. Anything that might cause you to compromise safety should be repaired, discarded or replaced.
 - Blaze orange clothing that has faded over time, a jacket that doesn't fit right or a scope that isn't adjusted correctly can compromise your safety and the safety of others.

Tree Stand Safety:

- No matter what type of tree stand you use, the basic rules apply to all of them:
 - Always wear a full-body harness also known as a fall-arrest system. Connect to your tether line and keep your tether line short. The tether is designed to keep you in the seat, not to catch you after you fall.
 - Always have three points of contact while climbing into and out of the tree stand: This means two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand at all times.
 - Always use a haul line to raise and lower your unloaded firearm or bow into and out of the stand. You can also use the haul for other things like a heavy backpack.
 - Use a lifeline when climbing up and down, this keeps you connected from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Take these other steps to stay safe:
 - Be aware of suspension trauma: Suspension trauma can happen in less than 20 minutes and can be fatal. Attaching an additional foot strap to the body harness will take pressure off your upper legs should you fall.
 - Select a tree that is substantial enough to support your weight.
 - Read, understand and follow all of the manufacturer's recommended procedures.
 - Do not alter your equipment.
 - Use a short tether between you and the tree when seated in the tree stand.
 - Let people know where you'll be hunting, where you'll be parking your vehicle and when you intend to return.
 - Carry a cell phone with you so you can call for help if you are injured after a fall.
 - Don't drink before or during your hunt.